



## Bernardino Telesio (1508-1588).

Italian philosopher and scientist, the head of the South Italian movement which protested the accepted authority of disembodied reasoning, was born at Cosenza (Calabria, Italy). After studying at Milan, Rome and Padua, he began his attack upon the medieval Aristotelianism which then flourished in Padua and Bologna. He lectured at Naples and finally founded the Academy of Cosenza. His great work, "De Natura Rerum Iuxta Propria Principia" appeared in 1565, and was followed by a large number of scientific and philosophical works of subsidiary importance. After his death at Cosenza in 1588 his books were placed in the Index and thus its reading prohibited.

Telesio proposed an enquiry into the data given by the senses from which he held that all true knowledge comes. Telesio appears in modern historiography as the father of empirism.

Remarkably, contemporary studies of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of Don Quixote and contemporary of Telesio at Naples, suggest that Cervantes in his novel La Galatea pointed out that in Telesio's conception there is an identity between science and poetry.

Telesio's school had among its continuators one of the most notable thinkers of the Renaissance, Giordano Bruno, burned at the stake by the Inquisition in Rome, whose work was later to exert a great influence in Baruch Spinoza.